

In the Claims

1. (Currently Amended) A method of stirring a solution for contacting a selective binding substance immobilized on a surface of a carrier with a solution containing an analyte substance reactive with the selective binding substance, comprising the steps of:

adding fine particles or air bubbles into the solution,  
sealing the fine particles or air bubbles in the solution with a seal and the carrier, and  
stirring the solution by moving the fine particles or air bubbles sealed in the solution by using the carrier and/or a container which have convex-concave structures such that the fine particles or air bubbles do not contact the selective binding substance-immobilized surface.

2.-3. (Cancelled)

4. (Previously Presented) The method according to Claim 1, wherein the carrier has a convex-concave structure and the selective binding substance is immobilized on the top face of the convexes.

5. (Currently Amended) A method of stirring a solution for contacting a selective binding substance immobilized on a top face of convexes of a carrier with a solution containing an analyte substance reactive with the selective binding substance, comprising the steps of:

adding fine particles ~~or air bubbles~~ into the solution containing the analyte substance,  
sealing the fine particles ~~or air bubbles~~ in the solution with a seal and the carrier, and  
moving the fine particles ~~or air bubbles~~ sealed in the solution, wherein the solution is in a container, and a minimum width of the fine particles is greater than a minimum distance between the selective binding substance-immobilized surface and the container.

6. (Previously Presented) The method according to Claim 1 or 5, wherein the solution is stirred by movement of the fine particles.

7. (Previously Presented) The method according to Claim 1 or 5, wherein the solution is in a container.

8. (Previously Presented) The method according to Claim 7, wherein the solution is stirred by movement of the fine particles and a minimum width of the fine particles is greater than a minimum distance between the selective binding substance-immobilized surface and the container.

9. (Previously Presented) The method according to Claim 1 or 5, wherein the solution is stirred by movement of the fine particles, the carrier has a convex-concave surface, the selective binding

substance is immobilized on the top face of the convexes of the carrier, and the fine particles move in a concave area.

10. (Previously Presented) The method according to Claim 1 or 5, wherein the carrier has a flat area and a convex-concave area, the selective binding substance is immobilized on a top face of the convexes of the carrier, the height of the top face of the convexes is almost the same, and the difference in height between a flat area and the top face of the convexes is 50  $\mu\text{m}$  or less.

11. (Previously Presented) The method according to Claim 6, wherein the fine particles are forced to move by gravity, magnetic force, vibration of carrier, or a combination thereof.

12. (Previously Presented) The method according to Claim 9, wherein a maximum width of the fine particles is 10  $\mu\text{m}$  or more and less than the difference in height between the top face of convexes and the concave area.

13. (Previously Presented) The method according to Claim 1 or 5, wherein the selective binding substance is a nucleic acid.

14. (Previously Presented) The method according to Claim 1 or 5, wherein the selective binding substance reacts with the analyte substance.

15. (Previously Presented) The method according to Claim 1, wherein the container for the solution has a convex-concave structure and the selective binding substance is immobilized under the container convexes.